

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for mail-messaging on a global information network, wherein a user generates a prepared message, the method comprising the steps of:

commencing a first transmission from a source location to a destination address.
the first transmission comprising a message identifier corresponding to the prepared message;

packaging the prepared message and the corresponding message identifier into a mail message using a binary formatting protocol;

commencing a second transmission from the source location to a forwarding server, the second transmission comprising the mail message, wherein the second transmission is independent of the first transmission;

receiving the message identifier at the destination address; and

responding at the destination address to the message identifier by establishing a communication path to receive the mail message at the destination address.

2. The method of claim 1, in which establishing a communication path comprises contacting the forwarding server with the message identifier; the method further comprising the steps of:

identifying at the forwarding server the mail message corresponding to the message identifier; and

transmitting the mail message from the forwarding server to the destination address using the binary formatting protocol.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of packaging comprises the step of compressing the prepared message.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first transmission comprises a mail notice, the mail notice including the message identifier and a source address, and wherein the step of responding comprises contacting the forwarding server with the message identifier specified within the mail notice and contacting the source address specified within the mail notice;

determining which one of the source address and the forwarding server respond first to contact with the destination address;

commencing receipt of a transmission of the mail message in the binary formatting protocol from the one of the source address and forwarding server which responds first to contact with the destination address.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of suspending contact with the other one of the source address and forwarding server; and upon successful receipt of the mail message, notifying the sending address and the forwarding server that the mail message has been successfully received.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first transmission comprises a mail notice, the mail notice comprising the message identifier and a source address, and further comprising the steps of:

receiving contact at the source address from the destination address;
responsive to receiving contact at the source address, determining whether transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server is incomplete; and

when transmission to the forwarding server is still incomplete, pausing transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server, and transmitting the mail message from the source location to the destination address using the binary formatting protocol.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
when transmission of the mail message from the source location to the destination address fails, resuming transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server; and

when transmission of the mail message from the source location to the destination address succeeds, aborting transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
determining a tally of bits successfully transmitted to the destination address; and
uploading the tally and the source address to an accounting server which allocates
a fee, based upon the tally, to an account corresponding to the source address.

9. A mail-messaging system for managing electronic mail communications
over global information network, comprising:

- a source computer at which a first user generates a prepared message;
- a destination computer which receives the prepared message;
- a forwarding computer;

a mail program which processes the prepared message to generate a mail notice
and a mail message, the mail notice comprising a message identifier corresponding to the
prepared message and a source address, the mail notice not including an entirety of the
prepared message, the mail message comprising the prepared message in a prescribed
format and the message identifier;

a first communication link between the source computer and the forwarding server
along which the mail message is transmitted;

a second communication link between the source computer and the destination
computer along which the mail notice is transmitted; and

a mail receipt program which responds to the mail notice to establish a third
communication link to receive the mail message at the destination address using a binary
formatting transmission protocol.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
means for the destination computer to contact the forwarding server with the
message identifier;
means for identifying at the forwarding server the mail message corresponding to
the message identifier; and
means for transmitting the mail message from the forwarding server to the
destination address using the binary formatting transmission protocol.

11. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for the destination computer to contact the forwarding server with the message identifier;

means for the destination computer to contact the source address;

means for determining which one of the source address and the forwarding server respond first to contact with the destination address; and

means for commencing receipt of a transmission of the mail message in the binary formatting transmission protocol from the one of the source address and forwarding server which responds first to contact with the destination address.

12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for suspending contact with the other one of the source address and forwarding server; and

means for notifying the sending address and the forwarding server, upon successful receipt of the mail message, that the mail message has been successfully received.

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for receiving contact at the source address from the destination address;

means, responsive to receiving contact at the source address, for determining whether transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server is incomplete; and

means for pausing transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server when transmission to the forwarding server is still incomplete; and

means for transmitting the mail message from the source location to the destination address using the binary formatting transmission protocol.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for resuming transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server when transmission of the mail message from the source location to the destination address fails; and

5 means for aborting transmission of the mail message from the source location to the forwarding server when transmission of the mail message from the source location to the destination address succeeds.

15. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

10 means for determining a tally of bits successfully transmitted to the destination address; and

means for uploading the tally and the source address to an accounting server which allocates a fee, based upon the tally, to an account corresponding to the source address.

16. A method for mail-messaging on a global information network, wherein a user generates a prepared message, the method comprising the steps of:

15 sending a message identifier corresponding to the prepared message from a source location to a destination address, the message identifier being sent to the destination address without the prepared message;

20 packaging the prepared message and the corresponding message identifier into a mail message using a binary formatting protocol;

commencing transmission of the mail message from the source location to a forwarding server;

logging onto the global information network at the destination address;

25 receiving the message identifier at the destination address;

accessing mail destined for the destination address, the step of accessing comprising automatically responding to the message identifier by contacting the forwarding server, and transmitting the mail message from the forwarding server to the destination address using the binary formatting protocol; and

30 deleting the mail message from the forwarding server upon receiving an indication of a successful receipt of the mail message at the destination computer.

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17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

means for determining a tally of bits successfully transmitted to the destination address; and

means for uploading the tally and the source address to an accounting server which allocates a fee, based upon the tally, to an account corresponding to the source location.

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